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of ministering to the most fundamental needs of mankind. The whole matter is made concrete in terms of social duty in the chapter contributed by the late Charles R. Henderson, the last contribution from the hand of one who is remembered both as a great scholar and as a sainted prophet. In glowing terms he describes the opportunity of the church for social service, a mission which calls for great wisdom and adequate equipment. "The church, with its ministry, has the most vital part in social service. The essence of theology is its doctrine of friendship as the spirit of the universe. . . . Religion stimulates us to love all our fellow-men, to do good as we have opportunity, to use all our resources and all our institutions to promote the well-being of mankind. Thus religion becomes a powerful means to a noble and rational

end, toward which God himself is working with us and in us."

Each of the twelve chapters is prefaced with a careful analysis of its contents, and every section is provided with a well-chosen bibliography. This is a book which will serve not only as a guide to the young student of theology; it will find its way into the hands of ministers who are alive to the progress of scholarship, and of thoughtful laymen who are looking for help in their search for truth in religion. The study of religion, rightly viewed, should be the most interesting of all studies. This book not only vindicates the intrinsic interest of religion as a primary factor in human development; it suggests the reasonableness of the hope that the warring sects of Christendom may yet be fused by processes of earnest thinking into one great body of the like-minded.

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## BOOK NOTICES

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**The Religious Education of an American Citizen.** By Francis Greenwood Peabody. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. ix+214. \$1.25.

American citizenship has taken on a new significance in these days when sharp distinctions are being made between those who loyally support our national mobilization and those who hinder or obstruct. We are realizing the need of patriotic education as never before. The latest book of Professor Peabody's is therefore most timely. It consists of various essays, many of which were evidently composed for times of peace, but which are perhaps all the more valuable for that reason, since thus a broader conception of citizenship is secured than would be suggested by the peculiar stress of war time.

As Professor Peabody understands religion, it means no mere conventional system of creeds and churches. Religion is the intelligent consecration of the entire man in all his activities to the interests of the Kingdom of God. In America religion means that the moral and social evils in our national life shall be clearly recognized, and that a noble and comprehensive idealism shall be promoted in every way. The religious education of the American citizen is something, therefore, too vast for the church to

undertake in its entirety, important as is the church's contribution. The home, the public school, the university, the industrial and commercial enterprises of our land, all have their contribution to make. The chapter entitled "The Expansion of Religion" is an inspiring call to transcend provincialism. Following Professor William James's well-known essay on "Moral Equivalents for War," Professor Peabody proposes the "Conversion of Militarism" by a conscription of youth for training in an organized system of making social and public improvements.

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**Myths and Legends of Babylonia and Assyria.**

By Lewis Spence. New York: Stokes, 1917. Pp. 412. \$3.00.

A readable popular account of the mythology of the ancient Babylonians and Assyrians has come to us from the pen of one who has interested himself in the myths of peoples widely separated both as to space and time. The author does not stop with the myths, however, but weaves into his narrative a sketch of the history of Babylonia and Assyria, a fairly detailed account of the religious beliefs and cults of the Babylonians, as well as the story of the

recovery of the long-lost literary remains of these ancient inhabitants of the Tigris-Euphrates Valley.

The breezy references in the preface to the dullness of the writings of those "who have made the field a specialty," and the twaddle about a book "which should contain the pure gold of Babylonian romance freed from the darker ore of antiquarian research," constitute a clever bit of camouflage, which fails, however, to conceal the author's totally inadequate preparation for the work he has undertaken. Some of the spellings of Babylonian names found in the volume might be overlooked, but the pronunciations of them given in the "Glossary and Index" would make any Assyriologist's hair stand on end.

**Truths That Save.** By Frank H. Decker.

Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1917. Pp. xii+171. \$1.00.

The work that was done by the author while at Church House, Providence, Rhode Island, was so challenging in its success that anything from him is sure of meeting an eager group of readers. This book contains ten typical and accurate interviews with the "cases" which were constantly under treatment at Church House. Then follow forty-two brief addresses given in the chapel. Together these reveal the secret of Mr. Decker's success. Perhaps it is gathered up most clearly in this paragraph with which one of the interviews closes: "In each case I had appealed to the spirit of God of whose presence both confessed that they had been painfully conscious. 'He who would have kept you out of sin,' I said 'will now lead you out of it. Follow Him'" (p. 34).

The administration of this kind of pastoral medicine appears to be a simple matter; but we are aware that it requires also the skill of Mr. Decker to produce the effects reported here. Pastors will find the volume exceedingly suggestive.

**The Apostles' Creed To-day.** By Edward S.

Drown. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. 129. \$1.00.

The author is professor in the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge and has written a sensible book which will commend itself to many who are impatient with an unyielding allegiance to creeds as such, and which will not satisfy those who hold all the old forms tenaciously. His first chapter is entitled "Creeds and Liberty," in which he defends the place and function of the creeds when truly used as the "path through the forest." Then he studies the origin and character of the Apostles' Creed, so called. This is free from technicalities and is a most useful chapter. Then he interprets the creed. For example: "By the resurrection of the body we mean that after death we shall find a new and personal expression in some environment

that is now unknown to us." He shows clearly that this is not what the words mean literally. Finally he shows how the creed may be used for spiritual edification and therefore be made to perform its original function in the development of the Christian life. We know of no more frank and earnest appeal for the ancient symbol in its real place in modern life.

**The Ministry: An Appeal to College Men.** By

Charles Franklin Thwing. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1916. Pp. 89. \$0.50.

President Thwing, of Western Reserve University, here makes a strong appeal to college men to give themselves to the Christian ministry. He gives a comprehensive and discriminating survey of the attractions of the ministry to the modern college man. Then he faces the objections to the ministry in a perfectly frank spirit, making, naturally, a brief reply to the objections. Next he shows the qualities necessary in the man choosing the ministry as a life-work, without giving the idea of a perfectly impossible cross-section of omniscience or an escaped angel, as is so often done in describing the young minister. Finally he cites successful ministers to report on their work. It is a fair appeal, blinking no difficulties, avoiding absurdities, and making the ministry attractive to the manly student.

**The Social Teachings of the Prophets and Jesus.**

By Charles Foster Kent. New York: Scribner, 1917. Pp. xiii+364. \$1.50.

In twenty-eight sections, beginning with "Moses' Assertion of the Rights of the Industrially Oppressed" and closing with "The Application of the Social Teachings of the Prophets and Jesus in National and International Relations," Professor Kent sets forth the characteristic social message of the books of the Bible with fulness and skill. It is a volume primarily adapted to the classroom, but it will be also profitable in private reading and study. The passages are printed when they are not too extensive, and thus the text is made immediately available for use without constant consultation of a Bible. The historical background is displayed with the clearness and conciseness of which Professor Kent is a master. One of the most valuable chapters is that entitled, "Jesus' Teaching regarding the Family." An example of the sane judgment of Professor Kent is seen in his treatment of the economic basis of the early Christian communities. He says: "The economic life of the Jerusalem community was not regulated by an arbitrary, communistic principle, but by the more powerful forces of brotherly love and of loyalty to the fraternal community which Jesus had inspired in the hearts of his followers." This is one of the best books on the subject we know.